

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01808 091428Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01

EB-07 DOTE-00 /065 W

----- 056772

O 091408Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7576

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1808

ARA/LA/MRSD O'GRADY PASS PARAS 2 AND 7 TO MCLELLAN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PGOV

SUBJECT: THREE NEW CABINET MINISTERS NAMED

REF: SANTIAGO 1758

1. ON EVENING MARCH 8 GOC ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF THREE NEW CABINET MINISTERS, IN POSTS PREDICTED IN REFTTEL:

(A) MINISTER LABOR: CIVILIAN SERGIO FERNANDEZ.
FERNANDEZ REPLACED AF GENERAL NICANOR DIAZ.

(B) MINISTER TRANSPORTATION: AF GENERAL RAUL VARGAS MIGUEL.
REPLACED ARMY (RETIRED) GEN. ENRIQUE GARIN CEA.

(C) MINISTER HEALTH: AF GENERAL FERNANDO MATTHEI AUBEL.
REPLACED AF GENERAL FRANCISCO HERRERA LATOJA.

2. FERNANDEZ, AGE 37, IS LAW PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF CHILE.
HIS CAREER HAS BEEN BASICALLY IN LAW, ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN
MANAGER OF A PENSION FUND. HE IS MEMBER OF COMMISSION WORKING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 01808 091428Z

ON NEW CIVIL CODE.

3. VARGAS, AGE 52, IS AIR FORCE BRIGADIER WHO HAS HAD NORMAL MILITARY CAREER. HE IS CONSIDERED COMPETENT BUT NOT EXCEPTIONAL OFFICER. HE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF TRAINING FOR AIR FORCE.

4. MATTHEI, AGE 51, IS ALSO AIR FORCE BRIGADIER WITH NORMAL LINE BACKGROUND. LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, HE HAS NO MEDICAL EXPERIENCE. HE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS FOR AIR FORCE, AND IS CONSIDERED VERY GOOD OFFICER.

5. THERE HAS BEEN NO ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING OTHER JOBS FOR THREE MINISTERS WHO RESIGNED.

6. COMMENT: AFTER CONSIDERABLE BUILDUP GOC HAS MADE MINIMAL CHANGES INVOLVING LESS SENSITIVE MINISTRIES, THOUGH LABOR CHANGE COULD BE IMPORTANT. WE CONSIDER THAT THESE MOVES HAVE LITTLE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. NET CHANGE IN TERMS OF BALANCE IS INCREASE OF ONE CIVILIAN, FOR TOTAL OF SEVEN CIVILIANS AND NINE MILITARY IN CABINET. ARMY GAVE UP ONE POSITION, AIR FORCE SIMPLY SWITCHED TWO OFFICERS.

7. BASED ON INITIAL IMPRESSIONS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, WE REGARD CHANGES AS ESSENTIALLY TECHNICAL AND WITHOUT POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. AIR FORCE GENERAL DIAZ WAS GENERALLY CONCEDED TO BE WRONG MAN FOR LABOR POSITION, AND HIS DEPARTURE WILL BE APPLAUDED BY ORGANIZED LABOR AND PROBABLY MANY WITHIN GOC. WE KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT FERNANDEZ, WHO CERTAINLY HAS NO BACKGROUND IN LABOR MATTERS.
POPPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA01808
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760088-1183
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760379/aaaacseh.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SANTIAGO 1758
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THREE NEW CABINET MINISTERS NAMED
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CI, (FERNANDEZ, SERGIO), (VARGAS MIGUEL, RAUL), (MATTHEI AUBEL, FERNANDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006